

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 116956

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (FORD, GERALD)

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ARIAS

REF: MADRID 3290

1. WE SEE YOUR MEETING WITH ARIAS AS USEFUL OPPORTUNITY
TO REVIEW IN GENERAL TERMS THE PURPOSES AND CONTENT OF
PRESIDENT'S VISIT, AS WELL AS TO ELICIT FROM HIM A
FULLER APPRECIATION OF HOW THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN
SEES THE VISIT. IT WILL BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO
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HAVE CLEAREST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING OF TOPICS
SPANISH SIDE WILL WISH TO COVER DURING PRESIDENT'S
MEETINGS.

2. IN SPIRIT OF 1974 JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, THE PRESIDENT WILL WISH TO CONSULT ON THE BROAD RANGE OF U.S.-SPANISH INTERESTS. WE CONSIDER THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN, PARTICULARLY THROUGH REAFFIRMING ATLANTIC COOPERATION AND SPANISH CONTRIBUTION TO THAT COOPERATION.

3. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TOPICS WILL BE U.S.-SPANISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AS AN IMPORTANT

ELEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IN OUR SHARED INTEREST IN CLOSER TIES BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO. WE WOULD HOPE THAT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT, WHILE AVOIDING SPECIFIC DEFENSE NEGOTIATING DETAILS, WILL RESULT IN U.S.-SPANISH UNDERSTANDING LEADING TO PROMPT AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS.

4. WE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT INTRODUCTION OF SPECIFIC ECONOMIC QUESTIONS (GSP BENEFITS, FOR EXAMPLE) MIGHT DIVERT ATTENTION FROM BROADER, MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE REVIEWED DURING PRESIDENT'S VISIT. IT WOULD BE USEFUL, THEREFORE, TO LEARN FROM ARIAS WHETHER SUCH QUESTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE RAISED. INGERSOLL

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